



CURRENT AFFAIRS 1st November 2022

National News

1. Giridhar Aramane assumes office of Defence Secretary



- Giridhar Aramane, a 1988-batch IAS officer of Andhra Pradesh cadre, today assumed the office of Defence Secretary.
- In his 32 years of service, Mr Aramane has held various important portfolios in the Central Government as well as Andhra Pradesh government.
- Prior to his current assignment, he was Secretary in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
- Earlier, he was an Additional Secretary in the Cabinet Secretariat.
- He also looked after Exploration Division in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and was Executive Director in-charge of inspections in Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority.

2. Assam's eminent artist Neel Pawan Baruah passes away at age 84



- Assam's eminent artist, Neel Pawan Baruah has passed away after a prolonged illness.
- He was 84. Baruah was born in Jorhat to Assam's eminent poet Binanda Chandra Baruah, popularly called 'Dhwani Kobi', and Labanya Prava Baruah.
- An alumnus of Santiniketan's Kala Bhawan, Baruah was a versatile artist with his oeuvre ranging from painting, pottery, mask-making and writing poetry.
- After completing his graduation in fine arts, he learnt glazed pottery at Sriniketan and also had a stint at the Garhi Studio in New Delhi.
- An artist who often experimented with different media, Baruah has left a rich legacy of sketches on cigarette packets and matchboxes which has been displayed at many exhibitions in the state and across the country.
- Notably: In 2021, he was awarded the 'Assam Sourabh' award by the Government of Assam.
- Baruah was married to Dipali Borthakur, the 'Nightingale of Assam' who passed away on December 21, 2018.

3. RBI to launch nation`s first digital rupee pilot project today



- A Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) or Digital Rupee is a digital form of currency notes issued by a central bank.
- Digital currency or rupee is an electronic form of money, that can be used in contactless transactions.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will commence pilot launches of the digital rupee from November 1.
- It has identified nine banks for participation in the pilot launch.
- They are the State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Yes Bank, IDFC First Bank, and HSBC.
- A cryptocurrency is a decentralised digital asset and a medium of exchange based on blockchain technology.
- However, it has primarily been controversial due to its decentralised nature, meaning its operation without any intermediary like banks, financial institutions, or central authorities.
- On the Contrary, Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will be a legal tender in a digital form.

4. India's Ministry of Defense is the world's biggest employer with 29.2 lakh workforce



- **India's Ministry of Defence is the world's biggest employer with 2.92 million people, which includes combined active service personnel, reservists and civilian staff, according to a report in 'Statista'.**
- **A touch ahead of the United States equivalent, the Department of Defense.**
- **Statista is a Germany-based private organization that provides data and statistics about various issues worldwide.**
- **According to Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the five largest spenders in 2021 were the United States, China, India, the United Kingdom and Russia, together accounting for 62 per cent of expenditure.**
- **The total global military expenditure reached USD 2113 billion in 2021.**
- **US military spending amounted to USD 801 billion in 2021 while China, the world's second-largest spender, allocated an estimated USD 293 billion to its military.**
- **Meanwhile, the SIPRI report says India's military spending of USD 76.6 billion ranked third highest in the world.**

5. Bengal govt's Lakshmir Bhandar bags the SKOCH Award



- The West Bengal government's Lakshmir Bhandar scheme has bagged the SKOCH award in the women and child development category.
- The award is a recognition for the government as well as the nearly two crore women of the state who have been empowered by the scheme.
- The West Bengal government had launched the scheme in August 2021 to provide financial support to a woman head of a family in the age group of 25-60 years.
- Under the scheme, Rs 500 is given every month to women in the general caste category and around Rs 1,000 per month to women in the SC and ST categories.
- The state government spends around Rs 11,000 crore every year to fund the scheme, sources in the government said.
- Among the districts of Bengal who are under the Lakshmir Bhandar scheme, North 24 Parganas has the highest number of beneficiaries, followed by South 24 Parganas, North Dinajpur and Hooghly.
- Every month the state government pays around 1090 crores for this welfare scheme.

- The state government is giving a window between November 1-30th for those who have still not applied for the Lakshmir Bhandar scheme.
- They can do so through the Duare Sarkar camps to start from November 1.

6. Lula da Silva defeats Bolsonaro to become Brazil's president again



- Brazil's electoral authority said that Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of the leftist Worker's Party defeated incumbent Jair Bolsonaro to become the country's next president.
- With 98.8 per cent of the votes tallied in the runoff vote, da Silva had 50.8 per cent and Bolsonaro 49.2 per cent, and the election authority said da Silva's victory was a mathematical certainty.
- Da Silva's inauguration is scheduled to take place on January 1, 2023.
- Da Silva the country's former president from 2003-2010 has promised to restore the country's more prosperous past, yet faces headwinds in a polarised society.
- His victory marks the first time since Brazil's 1985 return to democracy that the sitting president has failed to win reelection. His inauguration is scheduled to take place on January 1.
- Da Silva is credited with building an extensive social welfare programme during his 2003-2010 tenure that

helped lift tens of millions into the middle class as well as presiding over an economic boom.

By Sameer Singhal

PLUTUS ACADEMY